



*AMATEUR
RADIO
DURING
DISASTER*

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Kanawha County Department of Homeland Security
& Emergency Management

Flash Resume

- Licensed Ham operator for 32 years
- County Emergency Coordinator for amateur radio for 10 years
- Co-founder of the Kanawha Amateur Radio Emergency Service (KARES)
- Former president, Kanawha Amateur Radio Club
- Co-coordinator for the county's involvement in SIRN
- Board chair, WV K9 Search & Rescue
- Callsign: K8JAC

It's a fact!

Communications problems and issues
always arise in disasters

Just ask the 9/11 responders!

It's a fact!

And then there's the Hurricane Katrina response

Why is that?

- Public Safety communications systems are designed for day-to-day use by single agencies.
 - Quickly become strained during emergency situations (traffic overload)
 - Unable to communicate with other agencies
- And those systems often aren't hardened or redundant.
- Most public safety professionals are not radio savvy and not trained communicators.

So, a Ham operator is going to fix this?

“Our Heros!”

C'mon. Really?

Ham operators have facilitated communications on behalf of public safety practically since amateur radio was born.

Really.

So, who are these pocket protector-wearing
wierdos and do they walk on water?

Let's name drop...

- Joe Walsh (Eagles)
- Chet Atkins
- Ronnie Milsap
- Patti Loveless
- Walter Cronkite
- Burl Ives
- Barry Goldwater
- Priscilla Presley
- Marlon Brando
- Jim Croce
- King Hussein of Jordan
- Arthur Godfrey
- George Pataki
- Kent Carper
- Dr. Steve Artz, CAMC
- Jeff Clark

Amateur Radio is...

- A worldwide fraternity of men, women, boys and girls who practice in the art of technology development and communication, both locally and globally.
- Goodwill ambassadors.
- Government licensed and regulated.



Ham vs public safety radio user

- Amateur operators must pass tests to obtain a license.
- They have a technical understanding of how radios work and how to make them work.
- Hams have intimate knowledge of their equipment.
- The ability to get the message through when nothing else works.
- Hams have their own message transport protocol and can send the same message almost anywhere in the world.

But I have a cell phone!

But I have a cell phone!

Good luck.

So, what does this mean to me?

- Many locales have CERT teams who are also ham operators
 - Team command and control
 - CERTs with a communications specialty
- The smart emergency manager has a trained team of ham operators in his back pocket.

So what do we do with them?

- Examples...
- Communications between shelter and EOC
- Supplemental on-scene communication
- Weather spotter



Spotter sees a tornado



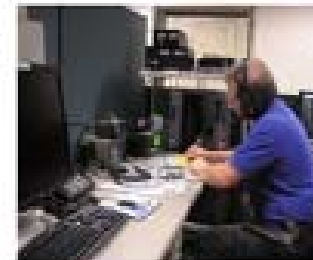
County EMC



Liaison Repeater



Amateur Radio Net Control



NWS



ARES and RACES

RACES

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

- Sanctioned under federal law
- Only operational during federally- declared disasters.



ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

- Sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League
- Operational for training, public events and during emergencies



Is it hard to become a Ham?

- Hey, I did it.
- Crash Course.
- What's an Elmer?
- Kanawha Amateur Radio Club meetings